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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

FLETCHER, MARLON T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/681,221

Applicant(s)

BECERRA ET AL.

Examiner

Marlon T Fletcher

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-30 and 49-53 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 31-48 and 54-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 31-35, 41-44, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bessler et al. (5,410,230).

As recited in claims 1 and 31, Bessler et al. disclose a method for interfacing an electric motor to a controller using an electrical interface circuit (308), the interface circuit including a controller circuit (302) and a motor control circuit (310), the controller circuit including a transmitter circuit and a receiver circuit, the motor control circuit including a transmitter circuit and a receiver circuit, and the interface circuit electrically coupled to the controller and the electric motor as seen in figure 3, said method comprising the steps of: receiving a signal from the controller as discussed in column 4, lines 52-68 and ; adjusting a level of the received signal to a desired level as discussed in column 4, lines 62-68; outputting the signal to control the electric motor as discussed in column 5, lines 5-12; receiving a signal from the electric motor as discussed in column 5, lines 37-45; and transmitting the received signal from the electric motor to the controller as discussed in column 5, lines 51-59.

As recited in claim 2, Bessler et al. disclose a method, wherein said step of receiving a signal comprises the step of the controller circuit receiving electrical signals from the controller as seen in figure 3.

As recited in claim 4, Bessler et al. disclose a method, wherein said step of adjusting a level of the received signal comprises the step of adjusting the signal level to communicate with an ECM motor (310).

As recited in claims 5 and 35, Bessler et al. disclose a method, wherein said step of outputting the signal comprises the step of isolating a transmit signal to the electric motor as seen in figures 2 and 3.

As recited in claims 6, 7, 41, 43 Bessler et al. disclose a method, wherein said step of outputting the signal further comprises the step of interrogating the electric motor to acquire status and diagnostic information, wherein said step of interrogating the electric motor further comprises the step of acquiring at least one of an operating status, an operating speed, an operating torque, an input power consumption, an under-speed condition, and a time of operation above a desired power level from the electric motor as discussed in column 9, lines 16-59.

As recited in claims 8 and 42, Bessler et al. disclose the method, wherein said step of outputting the signal further comprises the step of commanding the electric motor to operate as at least one of a constant torque motor, a constant airflow motor, and a constant speed motor as disclosed in the abstract and as seen in figures 2 and 3.

As recited in claims 9 and 44, Bessler et al. disclose the method, wherein said step of outputting the signal comprises the step of controlling at least one of an operating profile, a speed limit, dynamic braking, and an inrush current of the electric motor as discussed in column 5, lines 45-65.

As recited in claim 10, Bessler et al. disclose the method, wherein said step of receiving a signal comprises the step of isolating a receive signal from the electric motor as seen in figures 2 and 3.

As recited in claims 32-34, Bessler et al. disclose adjusting a voltage or power in communications with the controller and the electric motor in order to control a desired level as discussed in the abstract, column 8, lines 25-49 and column 10, lines 39-62.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 11, 40, 45-48, and 54-65, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bessler et al. in view of Kliman et al. (6,262,550).

Bessler et al. are discussed above. With respect to claims 46-48, and 59-60 Bessler et al. disclose bi-direction communication as seen in figures 2 and 3, Bessler et al. do not disclose the use of RF or Infrared signals.

However, as recited in claims 3, 11, 40, 45-48, 61, and 62, Kliman et al. a method, wherein said step of adjusting a level of the received signal comprises the step of converting an electrical signal from the controller and motor to at least one of an infrared signal and an RF signal (32).

As recited in claim 36-39, 54, Kliman et al. disclose the electrical interface, wherein said motor transmit control circuit further comprises a first and second optocoupler, which is inherent from the use of RF signals as discussed above, wherein the sensors for RF signals are usually optocoupler.

Limitations with respect to claims 55-58 and 63-65 are discussed above.


It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the teachings of Kliman et al. with the apparatus and method of Bessler et al., because Kliman et al. provide the use of RF signals, wherein signals can be wirelessly transmitted, thereby enhancing the invention.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marlon T Fletcher whose telephone number is 703-308-0848. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Nappi can be reached on 703-308-3370. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.


Marlon T Fletcher
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2837

MTF
January 26, 2003